



Tuesday 21st August 2012

Mr. Anthony Holton
Detective Inspector, Manager Zone 4
Child Abuse Squad, State Crime Command
NSW Police Force
Locked Bag 5102, Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear Anthony,

Re: Current matter before the court relating to Jonathan Lord

The YMCA is concerned by recent indications by the ABC that it wishes to name the YMCA in connection with the Lord proceedings. The YMCA fears that naming them will lead to attempts to identify any victims who attend YMCA services. The YMCA has already been approached by the ABC for comment, with indications that the story will run on the 7.30 program.

In October 2011, when the charges were laid, there were some centres operated by the YMCA in the Sutherland Shire region with as little as 7 boys aged between 9 and 11 years of age. In addition, across the seven service locations operated by the YMCA, there were a total of 116 boys in the relevant age bracket to the alleged offences.

We are concerned that, if the YMCA was named, children at YMCA-operated services in the area will face traumatising interrogation by members of the public and the media in connection with the Lord offences and whether they were involved. We are concerned both for the children's immediate welfare and for any ongoing stigma associated with being children at a centre where the alleged offences were committed. We are deeply concerned that there will be concerted efforts to identify the victims.

The YMCA's only concern in this matter is for the children in its pastoral care and prevention of harm to them in the fallout of media and local community scrutiny of the offences and the places where they occurred.

The YMCA would like these issues brought to the Court's attention when the Court is considering what information it is appropriate for the media to report on. We request that the DPP tender this letter. We are also prepared to have a YMCA representative address the Court if you think that would assist.

Would you please let us know how to proceed and what steps can be put in place to minimise any further harm to children who attended or attend centres in which the accused worked.

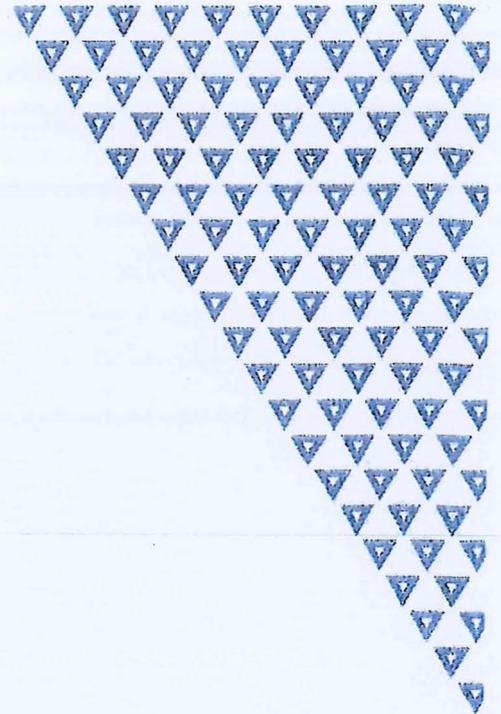
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Phillip Hare', written over a faint grid of blue triangles.

Phillip Hare
Chief Executive
YMCA of Sydney

YMCA of Sydney

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